

REMARKS


A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment has been received indicating that in the amendment in response to a non-final office action mailed December 10, 2004, the text of the canceled claims was shown in contravention to the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121.

Applicant responded to this notice on February 11, 2004. Applicant apologizes for the confusion; however, Applicant's first response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was not fully responsive to the notice. The response merely addressed the canceling of claims 17-20, which were previously canceled in response to a restriction requirement. Therefore, the February 11th response did not incorporate the intervening amendment filed on January 14, 2004.

To avoid the need for mailing an additional Notice for Non-Compliant amendment, Applicant now attaches a set of claims showing the status of each claim, including the amendments filed on January 14, 2004, but not including the text of claims 1, 5, 11, and 17-20. This present response is meant to substitute the response filed on February 11, 2004. The Attorney for Applicant believes that the present amended set of claims is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121.

Based on the forgoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of it is requested. If examiner disagrees, he is urged to call the attorney for the application at the number provided below.

Date: February 27, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sara Centioni". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sara A. Centioni
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 50,543
Nexsen Pruet LLC
P.O. Drwr 2426
Columbia, SC 29202-2426
803-540-2111
scentioni@npjp.com